

May 29,2007

Dear Honorable Legislator,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you regarding House Bill 4947. My name is Vince Consiglio, and currently President of ABATE of Michigan. I am an avid motorcyclist having ridden over 10,000 miles this season already, and in the past 32 years I have ridden over 20,000 miles per year. Most of these miles have been ridden in the state of Michigan. Many have been ridden in "free states."

ABATE's platform for over twenty years has been rider education, tougher motorcycle licensing, and motorcycle awareness as alternatives to the mandatory motorcycle helmet law. Helmets do not prevent motorcycle accidents. ABATE of Michigan was a key player in the initial passage of the motorcycle safety education in 1982. While the other players laid dormant ABATE of Michigan has initiated and passed 5 separate pieces of legislation that kept the motorcycle safety program solvent, most recently in 2004, when the motorcycle safety program was eliminated from the governors budget.

"Freedom isn't free." This bill is not the bill we initiated in 1976, but this is the bill we support in 2007. The bill increases our insurance cost. We already pay and overpay into the catastrophic fund. I pay five times into the fund, and yet can only be catastrophic once. Yet we have not convinced the majority of legislators of that, so we support HB 4947.

We believe this bill will provide incentive for the unendorsed rider to get an endorsement. The Secretary of State study from 1989-1993 showed 49% of motorcycle fatalities did not have a motorcycle endorsement. A University of Michigan, study conducted in 2002, showed 42% of the motorcycle fatalities in Michigan did not have a motorcycle endorsement. HB 4947 provides incentive to get legal to ride free.

The \$100 fee is unbelievable. But we support it to get the legislation passed. The state economy has a bleak future. Every state around Michigan is a helmet choice state. Thousands of money spending motorcyclists in the Midwest will spend their money here in Michigan. Please support HB 4947.

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